

I Claim:

1. A container for holding components of a construction toy or the like, which comprises
 - (a) a container body comprised of spaced apart front and back walls, opposed side walls joining said front and back walls, a bottom structure for supporting said container in an upright orientation, and a top structure,
 - (a) said container having a first primary orientation, in which said container is supported in an upright position by said bottom structure, and a second primary orientation, in which said container is supported in a horizontal position by its back wall,
 - (b) an access cover comprising a first portion formed of portions of said front wall and a second portion formed of front portions of said bottom structure,
 - (c) said access cover being hingedly connected to portions of said bottom structure adjacent to said front portions thereof for pivoting movement about an axis, from a closed position, in which said access cover serves to close said container body, to an open position, in which portions of said front wall and portions of said bottom wall structure are open to provide access to interior portions of said container,
 - (d) said access cover being adapted for a range of pivoting movement about said axis such that, in the open position of said access cover, a free edge portion of said access cover lies substantially in the plane of said back wall to form a

receiving surface for the reception of components of the construction toy or the like.

2. A container according to claim 1, wherein

5 (a) said range of pivoting motion is at least 180°.

3. A container according to claim 1, wherein

(a) the first portion of said access cover is disposed at a large angle to the second portion thereof, and

10 (b) retaining walls extend along opposite side edges of said access cover, between said first and second portions thereof, to define an area for the temporary containment of components of said construction toy set.

4. A container according to claim 1, wherein

15 (a) outer surface portions of the second portion of said access cover form a support for said container when said container is in an upright position.

5. A container according to claim 4, wherein

(a) the second portion of said access cover has a predetermined dimension in
20 the front-to-back direction,

(b) said bottom structure, in a region adjacent to and rearward of the second portion of said access cover, is recessed to accommodate the reception of said

second portion when said access cover is pivoted about said axis to an open position.

6. A container according to claim 5, wherein

5 (a) said predetermined dimension is approximately one-half the front-to-back dimension of said container whereby, when said access cover is in an open position, the first portion of said access cover lies substantially in the same plane as the back wall of said container.

10 7. A container according to claim 5, wherein

(a) the recessed region of said bottom structure is formed with at least one downward projection providing support for said container in its upright position, and

15 (b) said second portion of said access cover is formed with a recess therein for the reception of said downward projection, when said access cover is in an open position.

8. A container according to claim 1, wherein

20 (a) an upper edge portion of said access cover is of tapered cross section to facilitate sliding movement of components onto said receiving surface.

9. A container according to claim 4, wherein

- (a) said container has a greater width, between its opposite side walls, than a width of the second portion of said access cover, and
 - (b) said bottom structure includes downwardly projecting support portions adjacent opposite sides of said second portion and serving with said outer surface portions to support said container in its upright position.
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10. A container according to claim 1, wherein
- (a) the top structure of said container includes a handle.
- 10 11. A container according to claim 10, wherein
- (a) the top structure of said container, in regions immediately adjacent to said handle, is recessed to accommodate engagement and gripping of said handle when said container is in its horizontal position.